GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1385
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2016
Low-Cost Generic Drugs
Panda Shri Baijayant "Jay"

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to promote production of low-cost generic versions of patented medicines of life threatening diseases in the country;
(b) whether the Government is aware that such medicines provide remedy to low income groups of society; and
(c) the details of the steps being taken to protect the interests of the said groups, with respect to cheap medicines and their availability?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS; MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)

(a): The Patent Act, 1970 as amended from time to time provides 20 years protection for patented products. However, it has provisions in case of national health emergency etc. for production of generic versions of these drugs in the country.

(b): Yes, Madam.

(c): The National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Policy (NPPP), 2012 was notified on 7th December, 2012, with the objective to put in place a regulatory framework for pricing of drugs so as to ensure availability of required medicines − "essential medicines" at reasonable prices even while providing sufficient opportunity for innovation and competition to support the growth of pharma industry, thereby meeting the goals of employment and shared economic well-being for all.

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